

USSN: 10/679,937
Art Unit: 3634
Examiner: Johnson, Blair M.

AMENDMENT
Dated: 03 February 2006
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REMARKS

1. No Fee for Claims

This is in response to the Office Action dated 09/29/2005. The total number of claims is unchanged and the number of independent claims is unchanged. There is no fee for claims.

2. Entry of AMENDMENT

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14 -15 are amended, to claim the invention with greater specificity. No new matter is involved. Entry of the changes and of this AMENDMENT are requested.

3. Withdrawal of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The specific bases for the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are quoted below, and summaries are provided of the claim revisions which are directed to overcoming the rejections.

Rejection/Basis for Rejection

1. “The terms ‘cord’ and ‘cord means’ which occur in each independent claim, are inconsistent and render the claims vague and indefinite.”
2. “Additionally, a shaft is recited, such as in claim 1, followed by recitation of first and second shafts. This also renders the claims indefinite.”
3. “In claim 2, steps (a) and (b) have no antecedent basis.”
4. “In claim 11, ‘transmission mechanism’ and ‘transmission means’ are inconsistent.”

Applicant’s Action

- In claims such as 1-6, 10, 11 and 15, the use of terms such as “cord” and “cord means” is revised to ensure consistency.
- In claim 1, terms which include “shaft” or “shafts” are clarified.
- In claim 2, antecedent basis is provided for steps (a) and (b).
- Throughout the claims, including claims 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14, “transmission mechanism” and “transmission means” are changed to “transmission.”

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are requested.

4. Withdrawal of Rejections of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Gershuny* US patent no. 2,687,769.

Claims 1 and 2 are method claims, the steps recited in which include pulling a pull cord in first and second directions and thereby converting rotation of a first shaft in a given direction into rotation of a second shaft in first and second directions.

Claims 3 and 4 specify reversible pull cord mechanisms comprising first and second shafts and various means for converting rotation of the first shaft in a given direction into rotation of the second shaft in first and second directions in response to pulling a pull cord in first and second directions.

Gershuny '769, with one exception, discloses embodiments of a venetian blind mechanism in which two pull cords rotate a single shaft in opposite directions. The exception, disclosed in Figure 8, uses two shafts and two pull cords: pulling the different pull cords rotates the first shaft in different directions, which in turn rotates the second shaft in different directions. In all embodiments disclosed in *Gershuny* '769, the venetian blind mechanism requires two pull cords, each of which inherently can rotate a cylinder in only a single direction regardless of the pull direction of that cord.

In short, *Gershuny* '769 does not disclose or suggest the different combinations of steps in Applicant's claims 1 and 2, or the different combinations of components in Applicant's claims 3 and 4, for converting rotation of a first shaft in a given direction into rotation of a second shaft in first and second directions based upon, that is, controlled by, pulling a cord in first and second directions.

It is submitted claims 1-4 patentably distinguish over *Gershuny* '769.

Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-4 based upon *Gershuny* '769 is requested, as is withdrawal of the rejections.

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5. Summary and Action Requested

Entry of this AMENDMENT is requested. Reconsideration of and withdrawal of the rejections are requested, in view of the claim revisions and the remarks herein. Allowance of claims 1-15 is requested.

If it appears the undersigned has misunderstood any aspect of the Office Action, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, so that the misunderstanding can be corrected

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF PHILIP A. DALTON

Date: 03 February 2006

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